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FIELD CROPS

Crop Production



November 13, 2002

FLORIDA

FLORIDA: High humidity and plentiful rains in many Panhandle and some northern Peninsula areas during October hampered both cotton and peanut harvesting. A few of the last remaining unharvested peanut fields were abandoned. Cotton picking fell well behind the normal progress. Producers delayed some peanut digging until mid-day or later due to the high humidity. Heavy rains caused some cotton to fall to the ground. Some fields were too muddy to support the cotton harvesting equipment. Sugarcane harvesting got underway after mid-month in the Everglades region. Hay making continued throughout October as weather permitted with some northern producers making the last cut during the last half of the month. The making of peanut hay gained momentum in early mid-month.

PEANUTS: Production is expected to total 230,000,000 pounds, down 36,800,000 pounds or 14 percent from the October forecast, and down 20,100,000 pounds or eight percent from the 250,100,000 pounds produced in 2001. Yield is set at 2,500 pounds per acre, down 400 pounds or 14 percent from the October figure. Last year, yield averaged 3,050 pounds per acre. Acreage to be harvested is set at 92,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from the 82,000 acres dug in 2001.

SUGARCANE: Acres to be cut are set at 455,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from the 465,000 acres harvested last year. Yield is expected to average 36.4 tons per acre, equal to the October forecast, but up over a ton from last year. Production calculates to 16,552,000 tons, up 214,000 tons from the 16,338,000 tons produced last year.

UNITED STATES

PEANUTS: Production is forecast at 3.51 billion pounds, down 6 percent from last month and down 18 percent from 2001. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.36 million acres, unchanged from the October estimate, but down 4 percent from 2001. Yields are expected to average 2,579 pounds, 178 pounds below last month and down 450 pounds from 2001. Wet field conditions throughout the three peanut producing regions delayed harvest. The U.S. peanut harvest was 75 percent complete on November 3, eleven percentage points behind the 5-year average. Harvest conditions and increased disease levels in this year's crop have reduced yield expectations. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.06 billion pounds, down 8 percent from last month and 18 percent below last year. Expected area for harvest, at 819,500 acres, is unchanged from last month, but up 2 percent from the previous year. Yield in the four-State area is expected to average 2,512 pounds per acre, 219 pounds below October and 623 pounds lower than 2001. Alabama's peanut harvest stood at 84 percent complete on November 3, eight percentage points behind the 5-year average. Florida's harvest, at 96 percent complete, was 1 percentage point behind; and Georgia, at 86 percent complete, lagged behind the 5-year average by 9 percentage points.

SUGARCANE: Production is forecast at 35.3 million tons, fractionally below the October forecast but 2 percent above last year. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 1.02 million acres for sugar and seed during the 2002 crop year. This is unchanged from the previous month but 1 percent lower than last year's final harvested acres. Yield is forecast at 34.6 tons per acre, virtually unchanged from the October 1 forecast but 1.0 ton above last year's yield. Wet weather frequently interrupted Louisiana's harvest during October, and on November 3 harvest was 31 percent complete compared with the 5-year average of 36 percent. Although Louisiana's harvest intentions have not been reduced by the wet weather, conditions during the remainder of the harvest season and the timing of the first hard freeze will be critical in determining final harvested area. Rain also frequently interrupted harvest in Texas, while harvest progressed with few rain delays in Florida and Hawaii.

COTTON: Upland cotton harvested area, at 12.6 million acres, is unchanged from the October estimate but 7 percent less than last year. American-Pima harvested area, at 241,400 acres, is unchanged from October but down 10 percent from 2001 harvest area. Harvest progress is behind the 5-year average. In the Southeastern States, cotton picking progressed normally during the first week of October, but frequent rains throughout the rest of the month delayed harvesting. Virginia was the only State with harvest progress ahead

of the 5-year average by month's end. Alabama's harvest was delayed the most with progress 23 percentage points behind average by November 3. The upland cotton harvest lagged well behind the 5-year average in all of the Delta States by the end of October. Hurricane Lili hit the Gulf Coast on the 3rd of October, bringing additional rain and wind to many areas of the region following the heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Isidore the week before. Harvesting operations were slowed by muddy fields and additional showers throughout the month. Picking resumed in the interior Delta areas near the middle of October, but was hampered by surplus moisture. As of November 3, harvest progress was 33 and 34 percentage points behind the 5-year average in Louisiana and Mississippi, respectively.

CORN: Acreage harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 70.5 million acres, unchanged from October but up 3 percent from 2001. As of November 3, seventy-seven percent of the corn acreage was harvested in the 18 major corn-producing States. This was slightly behind last year's 78 percent and about 5 days behind the five-year average of 84 percent. Above-normal temperatures and favorably dry weather during the first half of October quickly ripened late-maturing fields around the Great Lakes and eastern Corn Belt which allowed producers to make good harvest progress. However, cold nighttime temperatures on the Great Plains slowed ripening of the crop. Harvest progress was slowed in the western Corn Belt and Great Plains due to heavy rainfall at the beginning of the month. After mid-month, producers experienced only brief delays due to light rain and snow. Harvest progress in Iowa and Minnesota, as well as adjacent parts of the Great Plains, was well behind normal throughout the month. However, harvest was well ahead of normal in Indiana and Ohio.

SOYBEANS: Growers expect to harvest 71.8 million acres of soybeans, unchanged from October, but 2 percent below last year. As of November 3, eighty-seven percent of the crop was harvested in the 18 major producing States. This compares with 89 percent last year and the 5-year average of 92 percent. Harvest in the western Corn Belt and Great Plains was delayed the first week of October, but scattered precipitation only briefly delayed progress for the remainder of the month. Heavy precipitation hindered harvest of soybean fields in the Delta States, Kentucky, and Tennessee most of the month. On November 3, crop progress ranged from more than 1 to about 3 weeks behind normal. By November 3, harvest approached completion well ahead of normal in Michigan and near normal in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Ohio.

Crop production: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of November 1, 2002 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2001	For harvest 2002	2001	Indicated 2002		2001	Indicated 2002
	Thousands		Units			Thousands	
FLORIDA							
Cotton	124	^{1/}	612	^{1/}	^{2/}	158	^{1/}
Peanuts	82	92	3,050	2,500	Lbs.	250,100	230,000
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{3/}	5.0	6.7	265	265	Cwt	1,325	1,776
Spring ^{3/}	25.0	25.4	319	283	Cwt	7,970	7,179
Sugarcane	465	455	35.1	36.4	Ton	16,338	16,552
Tobacco, Type 14	4.5	4.8	2,600	2,600	Lbs.	11,700	12,480
OTHER STATES							
FLORIDA AND KANSAS							
Cotton ^{1/}	159.5	174.0	566	579	^{2/}	188.1	210.0
UNITED STATES							
Corn for grain	68,808	70,541	138.2	127.6	Bu.	9,506,840	9,003,364
Cotton, all ^{4/}	13,827.7	12,861.4	705	665	^{2/}	20,302.8	17,815.0
Hay, Alfalfa	23,812	24,134	3.37	3.09	Ton	80,266	74,655
Hay, all other	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.87	Ton	76,437	75,792
Peanuts for nuts	1,411.9	1,360.5	3,029	2,579	Lbs.	4,276,704	3,508,650
Potatoes:							
Winter	14.0	15.7	294	268	Cwt	4,115	4,206
Spring ^{3/}	76.2	77.7	286	280	Cwt	21,814	21,753
Summer ^{3/}	58.8	60.6	310	310	Cwt	18,209	18,813
Fall	1,222.2	1,271.1	358	362	Cwt	437,888	459,734
Rice	3,314	3,207	6,429	6,611	^{5/}	213,045	212,013
Sorghum for grain	8,584	7,528	59.9	50.7	Bu.	514,524	381,499
Soybeans for beans	72,975	71,799	39.6	37.5	Bu.	2,890,682	2,689,691
Sugarbeets	1,243.6	1,356.3	20.7	20.7	Ton	25,787	28,028
Sugarcane for							
sugar and seed	1,028.0	1,022.6	33.6	34.6	Ton	34,587	35,341
Tobacco, All	432.4	434.3	2,293	2,040	Lbs.	991,519	886,020
Wheat, all	48,633	45,817	40.2	35.3	Bu.	1,957,043	1,616,441
Winter	31,295	29,651	43.5	38.5	Bu.	1,361,479	1,142,802
Durum	2,789	2,703	30.0	29.4	Bu.	83,556	79,450
Other spring	14,549	13,463	35.2	29.3	Bu.	512,008	394,189

^{1/} Individual State level estimates will be published in the "Crop Production 2002 Summary." ^{2/} Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales. ^{3/} Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. ^{4/} Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton. ^{5/} Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight.